

AGRICULTURAL QUARANTINE INSPECTION - USER FEES

[not separated yet]

PROGRAM PROFILE

Goal	To maintain the risk of introduced agricultural pests and diseases into the U.S. at acceptable levels to protect American agricultural resources, maintain marketability of agricultural products, and facilitate the movement of people and commodities across the borders.
Enabling Legislation	Authority exists under 7 U.S.C. 151 et. seq. (Plant Quarantine Act of 1912); 7 U.S.C. 150aa-150jj (Federal Plant Pest Act of 1957); PL 87-46 (civil penalties). Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, P.L. No. 101-624, Sect. © 2509 (User Fees), 104 Stat. 4069-4073 (1990), Federal Agriculture Improvement & Reform Act of 1996, P.L. 104-127, Sect. 504.
Economic Significance	Prevents harm to multi billion dollar U.S. agricultural industry. Intercepts many of the world's most destructive insects, plant diseases, snails, nematodes, and mites in baggage, cargo, and carrier inspections. Tons of meat products from countries infected with foot-and-mouth disease, rinderpest, African swine fever, and hog cholera are intercepted in baggage each year. Enhances U.S. agricultural exports valued at about \$40 billion in 1991 through phytosanitary certification.
Principal Approach And Methods	Inspection and regulation of imported cargo and international air and sea passengers at ports-of-entry and preclearance locations overseas; inspection of cargo and people at the Mexican and Canadian borders; screening of carriers and mail; regulation of garbage from carriers; physical and chemical treatments; detector dogs and x-ray machines at airports and post offices; accelerated passenger clearance systems, such as Automated Passenger Information Systems, at airports; assessing civil penalties. In cooperation with the U.S. Customs Service and the Department of Defense, APHIS conducts military preclearance operations in all the major military commands. This involves inspection of troops and their personal gear and the cleaning of

military vehicles and other cargo prior to their return to the United States.

History

The program began in 1913. Since USDA began port-of-entry inspection, the volume of cargo and air passenger traffic entering the country has increased dramatically. In FY 1994, 62 million passengers arrived at U.S. ports-of-entry. Passengers, their baggage, and packages arrive by airplanes, boat, other vehicles, or on foot. The task of protecting our agricultural interests becomes more complex each year. During FY 1990, APHIS and U.S. Postal Service initiated a project to inspect first-class mail from Hawaii to the U.S. mainland for prohibited agricultural products. Federal search warrants are required for each inspection of domestic first class mail due to privacy considerations. The program is highly successful even with this burden.

State and Local Cooperation

Many States cooperate in carrying out various AQI program functions, particularly export certification.

Involvement of Other Agencies

U.S. Customs Service, Department of Defense, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service assist in inspection.

RESOURCE DATA

-----Obligations-----

	<u>Direct</u>	<u>Reimbursement</u>	<u>User Fees</u>	<u>Staff-Years</u>
FY 1996	24,838,321	14,782,555	118,477,862	2,618
FY 1997	26,580,823	17,086,486	130,937,886	2,501
FY 1998 (est.)	26,747,000	17,690,000	141,351,201	2,612
FY 1999 (est)	30,648,000	18,307,000	143,500,000	2,653
FY 2000				

	APHIS	Coop	Total	CCC	Cont. Fund
Cumulative	\$1,640,101,724	\$111,786,580	\$1,751,888,304	--	--

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Revenue

In FY 1997, APHIS collected approximately \$115.2 million in user fee revenue for AQI services. Since the implementation of user fees in FY 1991, the Agency has saved taxpayers \$677 million.

Passenger Clearance

In FY 1997, 77 million passengers arrived at U.S. ports, an increase of 12 million over FY 1996. Passenger arrivals are projected to steadily increase for the foreseeable future.

Customs

APHIS continued to work with the U.S. Customs Service to expedite passenger clearance while maintaining adequate protection for American agriculture. A new plan adopted by the U.S. Customs Service, "Airport 1990's," calls for Customs to be more selective and examine fewer passengers and bags. In response to this plan, APHIS is using "rovers" and "choke points" to better control passenger movement. In FY 1997, 3,300,580 passengers were precleared and 23,539 contraband interceptions were made for the Bahamas and Bermuda.

Preclearance

Preclearance at domestic and overseas locations provides a high level of protection to U.S. agriculture. APHIS continues to use dogs to detect prohibited items at international airports and maintains 55 detector dog teams at major international airports and post offices in the United States. The Agency plans to expand the program to 108 teams by the year 2000.

X-ray Machines

APHIS continues to expand the use of "x-ray" equipment to screen passenger baggage for clearance. Currently, the Agency uses 76 X-ray machines at international airports and land border stations. They include: San Juan, Miami (3), Hawaii (31), Chicago (2), JFK/New York (4), Houston (2), Boston (1), Atlanta (1), Dulles/Washington, DC area (1), Los Angeles (4), San Francisco (2), Elizabeth, New Jersey (2), Seattle-Tacoma (1), Dallas (2), Detroit (1), Philadelphia (1), San Jose (1), Orlando (1), San Ysidro (2),

Hoboken, New Jersey (1), Roosevelt Road Navy (1), Mayaguez (1), and Ponce (1). APHIS, in partnership with the U.S. Army Piscatinny Arsenal in New Jersey are developing a prototype x-ray system that will:

- » detect quantities weighing 10 grams,
- » accomplish throughput of 120 feet per minute as required for "check-in" baggage inspection,
- » accommodate baggage dimensions allowed for check-in items,
- » store scanned images for an unlimited length of time and be capable of retrieving and displaying them at will, and
- » barcode the baggage having a detected product.

Military Preclearance

Among the AQI activities funded out of appropriated funds, APHIS maintained an ongoing preclearance program in Germany, and continued an inspection training program for military personnel in the European Command. Approximately 200 military personnel trained to assist APHIS in the inspection of military cargo, vehicles, household goods, and personal effects being retrograded back to the United States.

Mexico

Also, APHIS conducted baggage inspections for over 1.2 million passengers at the Tijuana International Airport in Mexico, where 46.5 tons of contraband fruit were seized and 7,069 fruit fly larvae intercepted. In addition, APHIS inspections at the Tijuana bus terminal yielded 8.98 tons of contraband fruit and 797 fruit fly larvae. Agricultural inspection of commercial cargo and passenger baggage continued at the road stations in Mexico and Estacion Don, Sonora, and El Centenario, Baja California South, with an additional 9,575 fruit fly larvae intercepted. There were approximately 54,703 tons of commercial fruit fly host material fumigated.

EXCERPT

The EXCERPT system, a computerized database of export certification information, is in its third year of operation. This database facilitates U.S. export trade by providing certifying officials with on-line export summaries which provide information for issuing phytosanitary certificates. In FY 1997, the system was

expanded to include summaries for 2 new countries increasing the total number of countries for which export certification data is available to 217.

Penalties

APHIS uses its civil penalty authority for inadequate notice of arrivals, passenger baggage violations, and maritime garbage violations. In FY 1997, APHIS collected about \$1.1 million in violations, assessing approximately 21,497 civil penalties. The program has successfully reduced the number of illegal importations and violations.

Interagency Border Inspection System

In addition, the Agency inspects cargo and carriers entering the United States. In FY 1997, APHIS conducted inspections of about 53,068 ships and 1,715,477 regulated and miscellaneous cargo. APHIS uses the Interagency Border Inspection System (IBIS) to electronically list violators of APHIS programs and record any violation history. IBIS is now being expanded to enable agencies to more effectively identify passengers requiring personal inspection. This will further expedite passenger clearance and more effectively protect American Agriculture.

Violations

Also in FY 1997, APHIS investigated 269 complaints of possible violations to plant health regulations. In addition, 581 formal cases were initiated as a result of the findings from investigated complaints. The Agency issued 12 warnings and forwarded 57 cases to the Office of the General Counsel for final disposition.